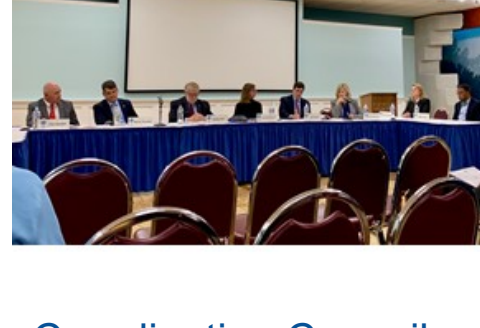


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GetSmartSC

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New Website: GetSmartSC.com Featuring the Palmetto Calculator

CHE recently unveiled its new website called [GetSmartSC.com](#) featuring the [Palmetto Calculator](#). These tools, created in response to feedback from school counselors, parents, and students attending CHE town halls, are designed to place information in one location for students and families and allow them to find information and estimate the cost of education as they plan for their academic future in South Carolina.

[GetSmartSC.com](#) pulls resources from all over the web into one comprehensive, easy-to-use tool for students and families to be able to find all of the college information they are looking for, without the hassle of endless searches.

The new [Palmetto Calculator](#), available at https://GetSmartSC.com/palmetto_calculator/ allows students to compare the financial cost of different colleges and academic majors. The ability to input any state, federal or private scholarships may also help demonstrate that higher education can be more attainable than anticipated.

After inputting a handful of data points, students will see an expected total payout amount, amount paid in interest, and an estimated monthly payment. They will then be able to compare those amounts with similar majors offered at other institutions of higher education in the state and the average starting salary associated with that degree field. Hopefully, these new tools will lead to better-informed students and a vibrant, well-prepared workforce for the state..

The CHE looks forward to receiving feedback to make these tools as useful as possible for our citizens. Please visit [www.GetSmartSC.com](#) and https://GetSmartSC.com/palmetto_calculator/ today to learn more and try out the new websites! Contact press@che.sc.gov with any feedback or suggestions.



GetSmartSC

Helping you find the Right Path

Coordinating Council for Workforce Development Meeting

On Thursday, November 15, 2018, the State [Coordinating Council for Workforce Development](#) (CCWD) met and discussed accomplishments and next steps for the group, including:

- The submission of the [second annual CCWD report](#) for July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.
- Perkins reauthorization and how that fits in with the CCWD – the State Department of Education is putting together a team that will focus on developing future readiness for jobs, quality in the K-12 education systems and identifying where job openings and opportunities exist for students.
- Working with businesses and institutions of higher education to better coordinate and collect occupational code data.
- Increasing dual credit attainment, industry credentials, and work-based learning opportunities.
- Planning for a Spring 2019 CCWD retreat/workshop and incorporating the S.C. Education and Economic Development Coordinating Council (EEDA Council).

Participants in this meeting included S.C. Department of Commerce Secretary, Bobby Hitt, State Department of Education Secretary, Molly Spearman, CHE Interim President and Executive Director, Jeff Schilz, Lander University President, Richard Cosentino, S.C. Technical College System President, Tim Hardee, and Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College President, Walt Tobin, as well as representatives of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) and the University of South Carolina.

**Annual Submission of the Comprehensive Project Improvement Plan**

As required by statute, CHE staff completed their annual review of South Carolina higher education institutions' part of the statewide comprehensive project improvement plan (CPIP) and sent a categorization of the projects to members of the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) and the State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFAA).

The state's 33 public colleges and universities submitted 356 projects proposed to be started in the next five years, estimated at \$2.8 billion.

Visit the [CHE's website](#) or [click here](#) to see a copy of the CPIP.

**Notice for Virginia College and Golf Academy of America Students**

On December 5th, the SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE) was notified that the Education Corporation of America (ECA) would close all Virginia College, Golf Academy, and Brightwood College campuses nationwide. This includes the following campuses in South Carolina: Virginia College, Charleston; Virginia College, Columbia; Virginia College, Florence; Virginia College, Greenville; Virginia College, Spartanburg; and Golf Academy of America, Myrtle Beach.

ECA representatives informed CHE staff that campuses will remain open through the end of the current December 2018 term. Students are encouraged to first contact their campus for questions related to student records, graduation, certification, and licensure exam registration; however, CHE is working diligently to gather more information to assist students.

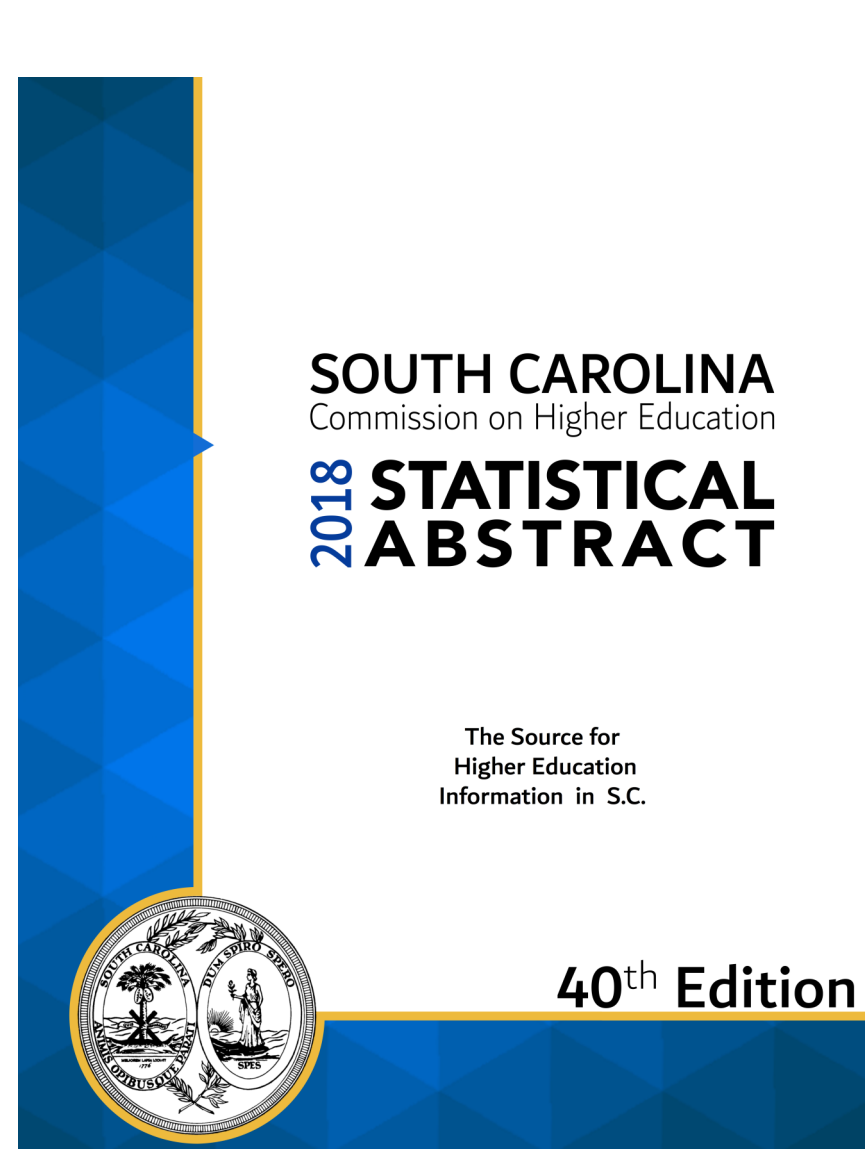
Please visit the [CHE website](#) for more information and answers to [frequently asked questions](#).

**Release of the 2018 Higher Education Statistical Abstract**

CHE released the [40th edition of the South Carolina Higher Education Statistical Abstract](#) on December 6, 2018. Each year, the agency publishes data related to higher education throughout the state, including scholarships awards and amounts, graduation and retention rates, enrollment figures, degrees awarded, tuition and fee data, and more in the Abstract.

New this year in the [2018 Abstract](#) is a summary and analysis page for each section which should allow readers to get a snapshot of the data at a glance.

The Abstract is available by [clicking here](#) or on the ["Data and Publications" section](#) of the CHE website.

**Unveiling the New CHE Website**

CHE is excited to announce new updates coming in early January to the agency website. A new homepage has been created in an effort to make our website and its content more user-friendly. With our reformatted pages, users will be able to navigate the site quicker and find the content they're looking for with ease. We anticipate that these changes will enhance the user experience, providing clear and concise information, and will continue to do so with updates to come.

Check back at <http://www.che.sc.gov/> in January to see the new page and let us know what you think!